3rd February 1936]

Local Self-Government

Appointment of a personal assistant to the Collector of South Kanara for managing the affairs of the District Board.

* 701 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a personal assistant to the Collector has been appointed to manage the affairs of the District Board of South Kanara; if so, from which fund is his salary to be met and under what provision of law is it to be met; and

(*b*) what the state of parties is among the newly elected members of the District Board of South Kanara with reference to Congress candidates and their opponents?

A.—(*a*) A personal assistant has been appointed to the President, District Board, South Kanara. His pay and allowances will be met from the funds of the South Kanara District Board under the provisions of the Madras Local Boards Act.

(*b*) The Government have no information.

Postponement of the date of election to the North Arcot District Board.

* 702 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the new general elections in the North Arcot District Board are; when they are likely to be completed;

(*b*) what the reasons are for putting off the elections;

(*c*) whether orders have been passed fixing a date for the expiry of the present district boards in North Arcot district; if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table; and

(*d*) whether the date originally fixed for the purpose has been shifted and, if so, what the reasons therefor are?

A.—(*a*) The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has been asked to commence the election in February 1936 and to complete them before 15th March 1936.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) Attention is invited to the notification on the subject published on page 609 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 24th December 1935.

Revival of tolls.

* 703 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether consideration with regard to the re-introduction of tolls, as mentioned in question No. 30 answered on 5th August 1935 has been over; and

[3rd February 1936

(*b*) if so, whether a copy of the final order passed in the matter will be placed on the table?

A.—Yes. The Government have decided that no legislation should at present be undertaken to re-introduce the levy of tolls.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government have under consideration any other proposals for compensating the local bodies for the loss suffered by them on account of the abolition of tolls?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The Government are proposing to make provision for special maintenance grants."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know what amount will be set apart?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"About ten lakhs."

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Petition from Mr. P. V. Nataraja Mudaliyar and others for the construction of an easy flight of steps over the seven hills of Tirupati.

* 704 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any petition was presented to the Government by Mr. P. V. Nataraja Mudaliyar and hundreds of other worshippers of Sri Venkateswaraswami of Tirupati praying for the construction of an easy flight of steps over a causeway to relieve the sufferings of the orthodox pilgrims who have to fulfil their vows by climbing up the seven hills of Tirupati on foot;

(*b*) whether the Government received the petition and what, if any, was the action thereon;

(*c*) whether the Government referred the petition to the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Committee, and if so, what reply did they receive from the Committee; and

(*d*) whether the orders passed by the Government on the petition were communicated to any of the signatories to the petition?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*) & (*d*) The petition was transferred to the Commissioner, Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams, for disposal.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"With reference to the answer to clauses (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*), may I know what the reply is of the Commissioner, Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The Devasthanam Committee is to deal with the matter."